



EAST EUROPE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

CHISINAU - 2018

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ACRONYMS

ACA	Anti-Corruption Alliance (Alianța Anticorupție)
AIPCE	Alliance of Independent Press Councils of Europe
AOPD	Alianta Oragnizatiilor pentru Persoane cu Dizabilitati
CAS	Consumer Assistance Service
CEC	Central Electoral Commission
CPD	Center Partnership for Development (Centrul Parteneriat pentru Dezvoltare)
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DANIDA	Denmark's development cooperation, area of activity under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
DCFTA	Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement
DPO	Disabled Peoples' Organisation
EBA	European Business Association
EEF	East Europe Foundation (Fundația Est-Europeană)
IPC	Independent Press Council
LPA	Local Public Administration
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
GEP	Gender Equality Platform
NPC	National participation Council (Consiliul Național pentru Participare)
NYC	National Youth Council
SE	Social Enterprise
UNDEF	United Nations' Democracy Fund
YB	Youth Bank (Fondul pentru Tineri)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following narrative report reflects the activities implemented by East Europe Foundation (Fundatia Est-Europeana) from 01 January 2017 to 31 December 2017.

During the reporting period EEF awarded and managed 35 grants to Moldovan NGOs, using the joint contribution of the Swedish Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, European Union and Swiss Development Cooperation Agency. Apart from the grants, EEF-M provided technical assistance to relevant partner NGOs and facilitated cooperation and dialogue between civil society and the government. During the project implementation, EEF-M worked and coordinated closely with the Prime-minister's Office, the National Anti-Corruption Center, the Central Electoral Commission (CEC), State Chancellery, line ministries, Local Public Authorities, and international organizations, such as EU Delegation to Moldova, OSCE Mission to Moldova, UNDP Moldova, UN Women, Council of Europe, UNICEF, EBRD, and others.

Rooted in the principles of human rights and gender equality, the program entails six interconnected components, which are implemented through a combination of grants, technical assistance and direct operating activities.

Major results achieved:

Building on efforts initiated in 2016, during the reporting period EEF supported NGOs that represent four vulnerable groups to coalesce, design and implement joint advocacy agendas. By the end of 2017 four NGO platforms representing Roma ("Roma Voice" Platform), Youth (CNTM), Persons with Disabilities (AOPD) and Older People ("Active Ageing" Platform) produced 57 public policy analyses from the perspective of inclusion, comprising around 30 targeted policy documents. The Study on Inequalities, produced in 2017, will serve as baseline information for measuring progress towards reducing inequalities in Moldova.

Most of the submitted analytical notes and policy recommendations are still under consideration by respective decision makers. All NGO groups are actively engaging with decision makers in policy debates to ensure that as many policy recommendations are adopted. By December 2017, thematic NGOs managed to integrate policy recommendations into around 11 adopted public policies. Other 11 draft public policies also benefitted from comments and recommendations provided by the groups (See Annex 1 for details about the influenced public policies). During 2018 EEF will focus more on enabling the groups to influence public authorities to accept and fully implement the submitted policy recommendations.

EEF made significant strides to mainstream gender equality in public policies. In 2017 the Platform for Gender Equality developed and widely disseminated four position papers on the following public policies: (i) draft provisions of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2021, particularly on combating gender violence and gender based discrimination; (ii) the new draft law on the Government of Moldova, no. 201 from 19.06.2017; (iii-iv) public appeals on keeping the Gender Equality Department within the reformed Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection.

The consortium of think tanks (IDIS, Promo-LEX and CALM), supported by the EEF in 2017, monitored the implementation of major reform commitments of the Moldovan Government in the following areas: business environment, incentives for development of small and medium enterprises, decentralization, EU-Moldova Association Agreement in the area of economic development, public administration reform. The major findings and recommendations were widely disseminated by media and used by NGOs in their policy influencing efforts.

EEF achieved significant results in building the capacity of four thematic NGOs, ensuring permanent coordination among them and involving constituents in advocacy efforts. This was possible due to joint NGO approach on policy mapping, peer learning and increased collaboration among the groups. This allowed the thematic NGOs to jointly develop, submit

policy recommendation papers, and speak with one-voice with relevant authorities in the case of the National Employment Strategy 2017-2022, the Gender Equality Strategy 2017-2021, reform of the pensions system, National Strategy and Action Plan on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women 2017-2022.

As a result of capacity building intervention that included training and coaching, the advocacy capacity of working groups increased by 50%: from 0.76 in June 2016 to 1.54 points in June 2017. The assessment underlined that all four working groups achieved the intermediary level. In this way, it could be noted that the established target regarding the advocacy and policy research capacities of thematic NGOs exceeded almost twice the target (initial target - 30%, achieved – ~50%).

In 2017, EEF supported the secretariat of the Press Council to ensure the exercise of its key responsibilities: examining complaints, working with media to promote the media ethical standards. In 2017, the number of complaints and self-dismissal examined by the Press Council increased by 30% compared to 2016. Thus, the number of complaints in 2017 increased from 22 to 29. The number of signals on alleged violations of professional journalistic deontology transmitted by consumers of media products has increased significantly. Signals are transmitted both through social networks and through the special application on the Press Council webpage.

The Press Council's authority in society is increasing and some public institutions, in special cases related to the behavior of journalists and media institutions, appeal to the Council's expertise. The public institutions that approached the Press Council: the National Center for Personal Data Protection, prosecution and legal organizations, non-governmental organizations active in the fields of human rights, but also many media outlets. Thus, in 2017, TV stations Moldova 1 and TV8 appealed to the Press Council's expertise when they were publicly accused by certain public officials or by the political parties that they would violate the deontological norms in their activity. Representatives of the Moldovan Press Council attended the conferences of the European Alliance of Independent Press Councils (AIPCE) and the Network of Journalistic Self-Regulation Organizations of the former Soviet republics.

To advance critical thinking in a very sensitive region, such as Gagauzia, European Interactive Center from Comrat offered the possibility for up to 1600 citizens of 4 localities from Gagauzia to enjoy a mobile Exhibition "Open Democracy" that reflected EU values.

Building on previous efforts to advance gender equality in politics, EEF supported the Gender Equality Platform to advocate for inclusive elections and implementation of gender quotas, adopted in 2016. With EEF support, the Gender Equality Platform issued two position papers on: (i) draft legal amendments to the Electoral Code designed by the Central Electoral Commission with the view to implementing the recommendations of the international and domestic election observation missions; (ii) the potential effects of the Single Member District Electoral System in the context of the Republic of Moldova. Extensive awareness raising efforts were conducted flagging the envisaged negative impact of the changed electoral system on gender equality.

At the local level, in 2017 EEF extended the network of political clubs, with two additional clubs established in Orhei and Soroca. Gender audits of 28 communities resulted in pertinent recommendations for LPAs on mainstreaming gender equality. Outreach activities in surrounding communities contributed to the identification of 419 women candidates for the upcoming local elections.

EEF made significant strides to revive the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections. Although it was not yet possible to fully revive the Secretariat of the Coalition, most members of the Coalition's Council actively participated in the debates on the change of the electoral system in Moldova and provided solid arguments urging the MPs to refrain from changing the Electoral

system. The expertise and contributions of individual members was compiled by LRC in a position paper that was submitted to the Venice Commission.

During the reporting period EEF facilitated the establishment of a Consortium of NGOs focused on inclusive elections. The Consortium brings together representatives of EEF, gender equality advocates (Center Partnership for Development), Roma inclusion advocates (Tarna Rom) and representative of Gagauz ethnic group (Pilgrim Demo). The Consortium designed a comprehensive advocacy seeks to advocate for electoral inclusion by the political parties, electoral bodies, MPs, and to empower the marginalised and under-represented groups to stand as candidates in the elections. The proposal was submitted to and approved for funding by the EU Delegation in Moldova. The initiative started in January 2018.

East Europe Foundation (EEF) and its partners are mobilized to foster sustainable partnerships and capacity of civil society actors on both banks of Nistru river through the establishment of cross-river platforms of cooperation at community level.

In order to transfer good practices in community development, social service delivery, consumer protection, youth engagement, social entrepreneurship and respect for human rights, East Europe Foundation assessed the existing tools. In this context a tool was adapted - the Guidebook "Community Mobilization for Empowerment of Vulnerable Women and Men". The Guide is expected to play a role in explaining and promoting the benefits of community mobilization. Meanwhile, a mapping of the CSOs from the left bank was carried out. These CSOs will be further involved in the project activity. As a follow up, a study on the needs assessment of the Civil Society Organizations from the left bank of the Nistru River was elaborated that will help identify the needs and recommendation to upscale the capacities of the CSOs. A special training course on advocacy was developed by an expert in advocacy. The Guide on Advocacy for CSOs was adapted for the specifics of the region from the left bank. The material will be shared within the future events on advocacy that will engage a number of CSOs in policy formulation through CSOs Coalitions.

Efforts have been made to contribute to the improvement of access and quality of community services offered by CSOs in Transnistria. Thus, 9 CSOs were selected within 4 Grants Competitions to initiate several community development actions by establishing - 2 Centers for Consumer Assistance, 2 Social Entrepreneurships, 2 Youth Banks and 3 Legal Assistance Centers in Transnistria. The grants will start in spring of 2018 after all due diligence procedures will be finalized.

To advance consumer rights protection, the Centers for Consumer Protection from Balti, Chisinau and Cahul (covering North, Center and South of the country) offered legal and advisory support to the consumers and economic agents all over the country. Over 439 cases of food safety infringements are in course of legal solving. It is worth mentioning that out of all cases related to labeling infringements 80% of the cases were solved by economic agents complying to the legal suggestions that came from the Centers and legal experts of the project. The draft law no.55 of 9.03.2017 on consumer information on food is monitored continuously (the Forum for Consumer Protection has submitted its recommendations), which was examined in two readings.

EEF has succeeded via an operational project to hire 2 experts to train ANSA inspectors to perform the new attributions given in their competence by Law no. 230 of 23 September 2016, namely consumer protection in the food sector. These duties were taken over from the Consumer Protection Agency. Thus, up to 100 ANSA inspectors from North, Center and South of the country now have incipient knowledge on the set of procedures to carry out these tasks, The experts also developed a guide on control and surveillance procedures in the field of consumer protection in the food safety sector.

Since its inception in 2009, EEF has supported the creation and growth of 8 YouthBanks from 8 counties across the country by partnering with 7 civil society organizations. Over the period of 2012-2017, EEF has helped establish 5 new YouthBanks based on the experience of the other 3 developed in the period 2009 - 2012. Thus, by the end of 2017 YouthBank Moldova network counted 8 YouthBanks coordinated by young people for young people (with marginal support from adults), formed of groups of approximately 20 students who work together to raise funds and choose small-scale development projects to receive funding.

Over the last 5 years, the local YouthBanks across the country have affected young people's lives and community life in a number of ways. Since its inauguration in Moldova, YouthBank has had direct impact on the lives of over 100,000 young people from more than 100 rural and urban communities across the country. From just 36 young people involved in civic association in 2012, there were 1435 young people by the end of 2017. Equality and non-discrimination are among the key principles guiding all youth banks' activities. Thus, at least 15% of the current Youth Bank members are from vulnerable groups (ethnic and linguistic minorities, people with precarious social and economic backgrounds, deprived rural areas, children of migrant parents, young people with disabilities as well as young people living in the security zone along the Nistru river). YouthBank has reconfirmed for the 7th year that it is a proficient platform for community engagement of young people, including those from marginalized groups. These young people are able to signal relevant local issues and get the attention of the public authorities. Finally, they take initiative by implementing local small-scale projects and support their peers in advocating for a more enabling environment for young people to exercise their rights.

In all of the 8 YouthBanks across Moldova there are well grounded initiative groups made up mainly by young people with few adults who are implementing local initiatives, projects and small grants programs, thus participating in youth-driven decision-making and community development. Their creative perspectives, dynamic spirit and contagious enthusiasm are transforming the shape of their community and living up the community life. The YouthBank program has contributed significantly to the increase of voluntary engagement of young women and men in community development initiatives. Youth engagement across the YouthBank network has spiked from approximately 1000 youth in 2013 to more than 30.000 youth by the end of 2017.

So far, young people were part of formulating Local Development Strategies in cities like Varnita, Soroca, Cahul and have participated in local budgeting destined for the youth sector in Ialoveni, Orhei and Rîșcani and other YouthBanks. There are working partnerships based on trust between LPAs and young people that are yearly renewed. On one side, this ongoing collaboration generates sustained youth participation in acknowledging their interest and needs into policies and local development opportunities. On the other side, the LPAs become more transparent, inclusive and accountable to their constituencies (and future voters). Due to these partnerships, young people in the communities where YouthBanks are operating are learning to advocate for larger investments in youth-led community development initiatives. There is still much room for innovation and experimentation in the field of participatory grant making.

EEF works at ensuring that continuous effort is taken to assess, document and share the good practices and lessons learned from the YouthBank network in Moldova due to a high turnover of youth involved in the administering the YouthBanks year after year. Together with a growing community of other grant operators, at EEF we are looking at increasing the transparency and accountability of our funding models to the people directly affected by our grants. At the same time, we are recognizing the added value of leveraging the knowledge and insights that are already present in the community. EEF would like to see this trend continuing in the future.

In the same time, efforts have been made to contribute to the improvement of access and quality of community services offered by CSOs in Transnistria. 2 Social Entrepreneurships will

be established on the left bank of the Nistru River as a result of the Grants Competition held in December, 2017. The grants will start in spring of 2018.

All the efforts oriented towards supporting the social inclusion of vulnerable groups presume the support of Local Public Authorities. Most of the projects either have policy, financial or in-kind support from the authorities.

1. CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION AND OVERSIGHT

Theory of change (Teoria schimbării)

Civil and political rights and democratic governance are better ensured when men and women have access to pluralistic information, freely articulate their needs, are capable to link them to appropriate policy initiatives, and are properly represented by decision-makers through free, fair and inclusive elections. Targeted measures support to gender equality organisations is essential to integrate gender perspective in public policies and increase gender representation in politics.

Activities

Trainings and coaching for CSOs on policy analysis from the perspective of inclusion.

In 2017 EEF and CPD conducted four capacity building activities for CSOs representing youth, Roma, persons with disabilities and older people.

Consultancy for CSOs representing vulnerable groups

EEF hired external experts to support the thematic groups in implementing the advocacy plans. Taking into consideration the advocacy capacity findings identified earlier, the consultants were tasked to paying due attention to strengthening the advocacy capacities of Roma and Older People groups.

Quarterly coordination and monitoring meetings with Civil society representing vulnerable groups

The first meeting was conducted on 3 March 2017. The key recommendations formulated during the meeting were: (i) the thematic working groups shall undertake efforts to collect and analyse data on inequalities in the areas of living standards, health and employment; (ii) due efforts should be made to upscale communication with and feedback from constituents regarding the analysed policies; (iii) EEF and CPD will organise a training of communication and a workshop focused on compiling data for the inequality report.

The second coordination meeting was conducted on 19 May 2017. During this event the groups discussed the draft findings on inequalities and agreed on the common approach for the conference on inequalities, conducted on 26 May 2017.

Annual Equality gap report

In partnership with CPD and four supported NGO networks representing vulnerable groups, in 2017 EEF developed the first Equality Gap Report. The purpose of the document was to review equal opportunities and identify potential wellbeing disparities of the vulnerable groups in Moldova.¹

Annual conference on Equality and Inclusion

¹ The Report is available online at <http://www.eef.md/index.php?pag=news&id=984&rid=1207&l=en>

The conference was conducted on 26 May 2017. Attended by 79 participants, the event sought to sensitise the public authorities, general public and other relevant actors on the inequalities identified with regard to the following groups: (i) youth, (ii) older people, (iii) Roma, (iv) persons with disabilities; (v) women and men. Inequalities were identified in the following areas: livelihood, labour, health.

Muzic Pot Girls Camp

POT music holds the Swedish methodology for implementing Summer Camps for Girls and for the first time in Moldova a group of local grassroots activists has consolidated and plans to extend camps for girls. The Swedish partner POPkollo is committed to continuously support the project by offering volunteers and technical support. 24 girls from all the regions of the country, including Gagauzia and the left bank of the country benefitted of a training music camp for 6 days. 100% of the participants mentioned that they learned something new. Also, 100% of the camp participants evolved to the stage of the final concert, interpreting the piece produced by the team to an instrument.

MOLDOX

EEF supported MOLDOX International Documentary Film Festival for Social Change which is the only documentary film festival in Moldova dedicated exclusively to non-fiction films with content of significant social relevance. The Festival welcomed up to 3,000 visitors.

2. ENCOURAGING ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AND CRITICAL THINKING

Theory of change:

Access to unbiased information and freedom of expression are ensured if media self-regulatory bodies such as the Press Council actively empower media consumers to recognize and report media misconduct, and if people (community journalists) are enabled to freely express their views through ICT and active debates conducted by European Interactive Centers.

EEF will strengthen the capacity of the Press to better reach out to media consumers. EEF will build capacities of selected community journalists to promote freedom of expression and access to information. Work will be conducted to upscale capacity of the European Interactive Centers to conduct popular debates that encourage critical thinking.

Activities

During the reporting period, the **Press Council** Secretariat was operational and assisted in organizing the work of the Press Council:

- a press conference meeting was held and held (February 14, 2018);
- 6 complaints and complaints against 8 media outlets were examined;
- 6 Press Council Decisions were drafted, adopted and disseminated.

The Press Council secretariat has provided ongoing advice to media consumers who have been interested in journalists' obligations and how to complain about violating ethical standards by journalists and media outlets.

The number of complaints and self-assessments examined in total in 2017 (29) increased by 30% compared to 2016 (22).

European Interactive Center:

- 89 students (56 girls and 33 boys) participated in the Public Debates for Youth;

- 3 educational institutions of Gagauzia are involved in the organization of the Debates (Comrat State University and M. Chakir College, Comrat, Agrarian Technical College, Svetly);
- 3 Public Debates were organized within the framework of the Project.
- 1 visiting exhibition "Open Democracy" is organized and presented by 15 cartoons in 4 settlements (Comrat town, Chadyr-Lunga municipality, Vulcanesti city, Taraclia);
- 46 volunteers (30 girls and 16 boys) were involved in the distribution of promo materials and promotion to the Day of Europe;
- 1600 residents and guests of 4 settlements became visitors to the exhibition and received promo materials (balls, bookmarks, pens, key chains, cup holders) within the framework of Europe Day.
- 3 Euroclubs provided information to visitors regarding youth programs and EU opportunities, consultations, Internet and access to the library;
- 1085 representatives of the youth community, volunteers, representatives of NGOs and the media, teachers of educational institutions and local authorities addressed Euroclubs for consultations, took advantage of the Internet and European literature.
- 5 information partners (newspaper "Vesti Gagauzii", Information portal Gagauzmedia.md, Information portal Gagauzinfo.md, sabaa.md, cesma.md) made publications about the celebration of Europe Day in Comrat, non-formal education and mobility programs, as well as the information campaign "You and Democracy!";
- 5586 readers were able to get acquainted with the activities of the Pro-Europa Center in Comrat through Vesti Gagauzia; 3 articles in the newspaper "Vesti Gagauzii"; 8 publications on the websites of information portals in Gagauzia;

3. FREE, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS

Theory of change

Elections are fairer if active NGOs of Women, Roma and PwD demand meaningful inclusion of under-represented groups, and if other key stakeholders, such as political parties, judges and electoral commissioners abide to corresponding election standards. Empowering gender equality activists to promote placement requirements in the legislation on quota is essential for strengthening representation of women in elected decision-making bodies.

EEF will work with NGOs, supporting them to coalesce and upscale advocacy for inclusive and fair elections. EEF will also facilitate dialogue with political parties, electoral and local authorities to ensure equal opportunities and fair electoral participation of under-represented groups: women, persons with disabilities, Roma. EEF will work with judges to strengthen their knowledge in the area of international election standards, including accessibility and equal opportunities.

Activities

Assistance to the Gender Equality Platform

Debates with decision-makers

During the reporting period the Gender Equality Platform conducted debates with decision-makers and other relevant actors, designed to advocate for greater gender equality in politics.

Position papers

During the reporting period the GEP issued two position papers focused on gender equality in politics. The first paper was concentrated on draft legal amendments to the Electoral Code designed by the Central Electoral Commission with the view to implementing the recommendations of the international and domestic election observation missions. This paper argued the need for introducing placement requirements for political parties upon the submission of candidates lists for Parliamentary and Local Elections (Local Councillors).

The second position paper flagged the potential effects of the Single Member District Electoral System in the context of the Republic of Moldova.

Women's political clubs

New political clubs in Orhei and Soroca

Two women's political clubs were successfully established in Soroca and Orhei. The Women's Political Club 50/50 organised two rounds of events in each of the targeted regions. The first round of events were devoted to the establishment and operation of the political clubs. They were attended by the members of the initiative groups from various political parties represented in the rayon councils from the respective regions, NGOs and Media. During these events the participants also discussed and approved work plans for the upcoming period.

Key recommendations formulated by women's political clubs are:

1. Women's political clubs should continue their work, based on local NGOs;
2. Women's political clubs should undertake efforts to fundraising, in order to increase sustainability;
3. Women's political clubs should upscale their outreach work in rural communities yet uncovered by their activities;
4. Women's political clubs should strive to engage more youth and more men in their activities;
5. Women's political clubs should make efforts to include more people belonging to vulnerable groups;
6. Women's political clubs, shall further explore the principle of solidarity among women regardless of party affiliation with the view to addressing issues faced by men and women, boys and girls in communities;
7. Women's political clubs should act based on mi-term strategic development plans.

4. COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Outcome:

Organised people in targeted communities successfully advocate for responsive governance and address basic needs.

Theory of change:

Sustainable Development Goals and basic social needs (rights) in targeted communities are better addressed if local NGOs actively mobilise people to (i) constructively engage with duty bearers, (ii) oversee local authorities' performance, (iii) define and addressing most stringent community needs.

EEF will work with NGOs, equipping them with community empowerment and mobilisation tools. Local authorities will be actively engaged in all community mobilisation process to ensure sustainability of the efforts. The program will mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals and social rights in all processes, including planning, participatory implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Activities

Three NGOs managing the Consumer assistance services have fulfilled the following activities:

CAS Center

- 513 reported cases through the www.alegesanatos.md - the hotline
- The Center responsible for the central part of the country had 537 registered cases, 158 cases are from other areas. Over 5 TV Shows broadcasted with the participation of the experts of the project.

CAS North

- Over 2089 inhabitants of Bălți municipality and 920 inhabitants of the towns of Singerei, Floresti, Glodeni, Telenești, Rîșcani and Drochia and the rural localities of these districts, used CAS NORD services and the website www.alegesanatos.md.
- 10 consumer information campaigns were carried out through the distribution of informative material about the program and food security carried out in Bălți by the volunteers of the project.
- 328 violations found in the North part of the country.

CAS Cahul

- 251 cases reported by consumers.
- With the contribution of the lawyers 155 notifications were prepared and sent to the economic agents.
- 7000 informed consumers

5. YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Theory of change:

Youth active participation in local development is advanced if youth NGOs actively empower boys and girls to engage in community assessment, fundraising, outreach, grant-making and if local authorities, businesses and school teachers ensure a corresponding enabling environment.

EEF will equip selected NGOs with Youthbank tools and guide them through all youth bank cycles. The youth bank tool will be adjusted and complemented with the Gender mainstreaming tools. This will ensure a meaningful engagement of boys and girls in youthbank activities. This approach will also ensure an environment free of prejudice and discrimination. The Foundation will also work with local authorities and businesses to facilitate resource mobilisation for Youthbanks. Work will be conducted with selected school teachers to build their capacities and facilitate joint projects with their counterparts from the EU.

Activities

The YouthBank network is improving at diversifying their sources of financial support and some of them have managed to attract funding from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, local public authorities, local businesses and donations from individuals. One indicator of impact is that Comparing to 2012 when the support of LPA was limited to mere logistical support, in 2017 Central and local government bodies have allocated more than 90% from the total amount destined to youth initiatives. In 2017, each YouthBank had an average of 5.000 USD for their Small Grant Programs and other planned activities. Slowly, but surely the awareness of the local business communities is growing regarding the benefit of the YouthBank model in their localities. Last year, the local entrepreneurs have given a little less than 2.000 USD to support youth led projects, comparing with the first years when their support was limited only to in-kind contributions. Thus, over the 7 years history of YouthBank Moldova, LPAs and

businesses alike have acknowledge that putting resources in the hands of a group of thoughtful, committed young people can empower them to collaboratively take decisions, build community connections and foster youth participation through applied learning. In this process, young people gain important practical experience that will prove useful as employees in the labor market and as citizens in public life. The partnerships between LPAs and businesses, on one side, and young people, on the other, have created fortunate occasions for building avenues of collaboration and trust and for breaking down stereotypes between adults and young people.

6. SOCIAL INCLUSION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

Theory of change

Vulnerable groups' access to employment opportunities and improved social services are ensured if NGOs increasingly use the Social Entrepreneurship (SE) Tools, Inclusive Community Service Assessment (ICSA) Tools in addressing vulnerability, and if duty-bearers ensure a proper environment for SE operation and proper funding for inclusive and acceptable community services.

EEF will work with grass-roots NGOs, equipping them with relevant Social Entrepreneurship and ICSA tools. Expedite efforts will be made to advance dialogue between vulnerable groups, NGOs and duty bearers to ensure that services and opportunities are institutionalised and supported by local authorities.

Activities

Social entrepreneurship

EEF announced a Grants Competition: Create and support at least 2 social enterprises in cooperation with the CSOs running such businesses on the right bank . The East Europe Foundation selected 2 organisations. The experience from the right bank will be transferred to the sub-grantees and they will implement similar type of activities in Transnistria. The goal of the social entrepreneurship program is to create better employment and social opportunities for vulnerable groups in Transnistrian region, through social enterprises, which will be run by CSOs.

Inclusive and acceptable social services

- 6 NGOs from Moldova will be selected to fulfil initiatives meant to improve the quality of lives for the vulnerable groups from the Republic of Moldova. This action will be carried out through a Grants competition on this topic.

Human Rights Based Approach to Development

EEF made significant strides to integrate human rights in all its priorities. The Civil Society and Oversight Program empowered four groups of NGOs to advocate for more inclusive policies. In their policy advocacy efforts, these groups continuously used the provisions, General comments and Concluding Observations related to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and other international treaties. Under the Free, Fair and Inclusive Elections program a consortium of NGOs on inclusive elections was set up to advance the rights of under-represented groups in compliance with the international human rights commitments of Moldova and joint ODIHR/OSCE and EU election observation reports. The Youth and Education program empowered and supported teachers involved in piloting the "Human Rights Education" curriculum in Moldovan schools.

Gender equality

EEF worked to ensure that women, as much as men, have a real voice in all institutions, so they can participate equally with men in public dialogue and decision-making and influence the decisions that will determine the future of their families and countries. EEF actively supported the Gender Equality Platform to mainstream gender in public policies, promote implementation of gender quotas in the electoral process, and raise public awareness of gender equality issues.

Contribution to EU Integration

Through this action EEF contributed to bringing the Republic of Moldova closer to the EU. In 2017 the EEF's partners in the Civil Society Oversight component monitored the progress towards the implementation of the economic commitments. The Consumer protection program also made reference to EU standards in force. Other interventions, such as eTwinning plus facilitated joint activities between Moldovan teacher and their peers in the European Union.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2017

Program areas	Budget, USD	%
Program 1: Civil and political rights and democratic governance		
Component 1.1: Civil Society Participation and Oversight	176.182	14,14%
Component 1.2: Encourage active citizenship and critical thinking	76.048	6,10%
Component 1.3: Free, fair and inclusive elections	108.980	8,75%
Program 2: Socio-economic rights and sustainable local development		
Component 2.1: Community mobilization for responsive local governance	288.341	23,14%
Component 2.2: Youth and Education	374.593	30,06%
Component 2.3: Social Inclusion of vulnerable groups	89.560	7,19%
Sub-Total Program budget	1.113.704	89,38%
Sub-Total Administrative budget	132.301	10,62%
Total budget	1.246.005	100,00%
Donors	Budget, USD	%
Government of Sweden	559.954	44,94%
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark	277.156	22,24%
European Union	208.580	16,74%
Swiss Development Cooperation Office	108.542	8,71%
UN Women	73.918	5,93%
Others	17.855	1,43%
Total budget	1.246.005	100,00%